AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method performed by a computing system to enhance metadata associated with media on a communications network, said method comprising the steps of:

retrieving said metadata from a media source on the communications network from which said media is available;

parsing said retrieved metadata associated with said media into at least one field of metadata;

comparing contents of each of said at least one field of metadata with contents of at least one field of metadata from an authoritative source whose accuracy is known, each field of metadata compared with each field of authoritative metadata being a compared field, wherein the authoritative source is not ~~a source other than~~ a person, is not said media, and is not said media source from which said metadata was retrieved; and

modifying said metadata if said compared field contents do not match the contents of at least one field of authoritative metadata,

wherein code implementing the method is stored in memory of the computing system for execution by a processor of the computing system.

2. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said step of modifying said metadata comprise at least one of replacing said compared field with a corresponding field of said authoritative metadata, correcting said compared field in accordance with a corresponding field of said authoritative metadata, and adding at least one field of authoritative metadata to said metadata.

3. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said authoritative metadata is obtained from at least one of a multimedia file, a

streaming media file, a uniform resource indicator (URI), a database, a media file header, a media file footer, a metatag, and a transport stream.

4. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving said metadata and corresponding media files, wherein said corresponding media files are formatted in at least one of a plurality of formats;

providing media files formatted in the same format and associated metadata to a corresponding format specific metadata extractor;

determining if a media file is unavailable or corrupt; and

if said media file is unavailable or corrupt, performing said step of comparing at a predetermined time in the future.

5. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said media comprises at least one of an extension selected from the group consisting of .ram, .rm, .rpm, .mov, .qif .wma, .cmr, .avi, .swf, .swl .mpg, .mpa, .mpl, .mp2, .mp3, m3a, and .m3u.

6. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said metadata comprise elements related to at least one of content of the media, intellectual property rights associated with the media, and instantiation of the media.

7. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said media comprises at least one of multimedia and streaming media.

8. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said communications network is a computer network.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer system for enhancing metadata associated with media on a computer network, said computer system comprising at least one computer, all computers in said system being communicatively coupled to each other, wherein each of said at least one computer includes at least one program stored therein for allowing communication between each and every of said at least one computer, each of said at least one program operating in conjunction with one another to cause said at least one computer to perform the steps of:

parsing said metadata associated with said media into at least one field of metadata, wherein said metadata is retrieved from a media source on the communications network from which said media is available;

comparing contents of each of said at least one field of metadata with contents of at least one field of metadata from an authoritative source whose accuracy is known, each field of metadata compared with each field of authoritative metadata being a compared field, wherein ~~the~~ said authoritative source is a database; ~~and~~

modifying said metadata if said compared field contents do not match contents of at least one field authoritative metadata; and

storing said modified metadata in an index, wherein said index is not said authoritative source, is not said media, and is not said media source from which said metadata was retrieved.

10. (Currently Amended) A ~~program~~ computer-readable storage medium having embodied thereon a program for causing a processor to enhance metadata associated with media on a communications network, said ~~program~~ computer-readable storage medium comprising:

~~means for causing~~instructions to cause said processor to parse said metadata associated with said media into at least one field of metadata, wherein said metadata is obtained from a media source on the communications network;

~~means for causing~~instructions to cause said processor to compare contents of each of said at least one field of metadata with contents of at least one field

of metadata from an authoritative source whose accuracy is known, each field of metadata compared with each field of authoritative metadata being a compared field, wherein ~~the~~ said authoritative source is a database, and wherein said authoritative source is not said media source;

~~means for causing~~instructions to cause said processor to modify said metadata if said compared field contents do not match contents of at least one field of authoritative metadata; and

instructions to cause said processor to store said modified metadata in an index, wherein said index is not said authoritative source, is not said media, and is not said media source.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~data transmission network of claim 11~~computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, further comprising:

instructions to receive said metadata and corresponding media files, wherein said media files are formatted in at least one of a plurality of formats;

instructions to provide media files formatted in the same format and associated metadata to a corresponding format specific metadata extractor;

instructions to determine if a media file is unavailable or corrupt; and

instructions to perform said step of comparing at a predetermined time in the future if said media file is unavailable or corrupt.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~data transmission network of claim 11~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, wherein said media comprises at least one of an extension selected from the group consisting of .ram, .rm, .rpm, .mov, .qif .wma, .cmr, .avi, .swf, .swl .mpg, .mpa, .mpl, .mp2, .mp3, m3a, and .m3u.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~data transmission network of claim 11~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, wherein said means for causing said processor to modify said metadata~~modify metadata code segment~~ performs at least one of the following actions selected from the group consisting of replacing said compared field with a corresponding field of said authoritative metadata, correcting said compared field in accordance with a corresponding field of said authoritative metadata, and adding at least one field of authoritative metadata to said metadata.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~data transmission network of claim 11~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, wherein said authoritative metadata is obtained from at least one of the following sources selected from the group consisting of a multimedia file, a streaming media file, a uniform resource indicator (URI), a database, a media file header, a media file footer, a metatag, and a transport stream.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~data transmission network of claim 11~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, wherein said metadata comprise elements related to at least one of the following types selected from the group consisting of content of the media, intellectual property rights associated with the media, and instantiation of the media.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~data transmission network of claim 11~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, wherein said media is at least one of the following media selected from the group consisting of streaming media and multimedia files formatted in at least one of a plurality of formats.

18. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, further comprising:

instructions to determine whether the authoritative source qualifies as a ground truth database by calculating a score representing a degree of similarity

between contents of at least one field of noisy metadata and contents of at least one field of metadata from the authoritative source, wherein the authoritative source qualifies as a ground truth database if the calculated score satisfies a threshold value.

19. (New) The computer system of claim 9 wherein said at least one computer further performs the step of:

calculating a score representing a degree of similarity between contents of at least one field of noisy metadata and contents of at least one field of metadata from the authoritative source;

comparing the calculated score to a threshold value; and

determining whether the authoritative source qualifies as a ground truth database, wherein the authoritative source qualifies as a ground truth database if the calculated score satisfies the threshold value.

20. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

comparing contents of at least one field of noisy metadata with at least one field of metadata from the authoritative source;

based on the comparison, calculating a degree of similarity between the noisy metadata and the metadata from the authoritative source; and

when the calculated degree of similarity satisfies a threshold degree of similarity, indicating that the authoritative source is a ground truth database.